

HOUSE BILL 831

By Jones S

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 24,  
Chapter 7 and Title 36, relative to parental  
alienation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 24, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by  
adding a new section thereto:

§ 24-7-123.

(a) In a suit for annulment, divorce, separate maintenance, or in any  
other proceeding requiring the court to make a custody determination regarding a  
minor child, a court shall not:

(1) Admit into evidence any expert testimony upon which the  
basis of such testimony is parental alienation syndrome; or

(2) Recognize parental alienation syndrome as a scientific  
method that will in any way assist the trier of fact in making a  
determination as to the custody or visitation of a child.

(b) For purposes of this section, "parental alienation syndrome" means  
the alleged disorder proposed by Richard A. Gardner that suggests that a child  
can become obsessively preoccupied with criticism of a parent.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.